

House Bill 133 - Favorable
Health and Government Operations Committee

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the House and Government Operations Committee;

I ask that you give House Bill 133, regarding a commission to study African American Civil War soldiers in Maryland, a favorable report.

As I'm sure you know, Maryland has a complicated history in regards to the Civil War. The number of Confederate monuments that have existed in Maryland is appalling. Even though Maryland didn't secede, it wasn't until the 21st century that most of Maryland's monuments to white supremacy were finally removed.

We've done a poor job of honoring Union soldiers in Maryland, though they vastly outnumbered the Confederate soldiers from Maryland. I only know of one monument in Maryland that's dedicated to African Americans in the Union Army. This is unacceptable and it's long past time to change it. This commission would do just that.

I urge you to give House Bill 133 a Favorable report so that we can finally honor all of the Black Marylanders who fought for freedom during the Civil War.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Debi Jasen
Pasadena, MD